

CRESCENTA VALLEY WEEKLY

THE FOOTHILLS' COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

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City of Glendale Appoints Rachel Friede Dimond as Director of Community Development

The City of Glendale appointed Rachel Friede Dimond, AICP, LEED AP, as its new director of Community Development. Dimond brings more than 20 years of experience in community development, planning, housing, economic development and municipal leadership.

Prior to her appointment with the City of Glendale, Dimond served as Community Development director for the City of Ventura where she oversaw planning, building and safety, code enforcement, housing and homeless services. During her tenure, she led work on the city's general plan, improvements to the development review process, economic development initiatives and expanded customer service at the city's permit center. She also served as executive director of Ventura's Successor Agency and represented the department in negotiations involving major housing and development projects.

"Glendale is a community where people care deeply about their neighborhoods and the decisions that shape them," said Mayor Ardy Kassakhian. "Rachel brings significant experience and I look forward to welcoming her to Glendale and seeing her build strong relationships with our residents, businesses and community partners."

Before joining the City of Ventura, Dimond served as assistant city manager for the City of Compton where she advised the city manager on public policy, municipal operations, economic development, housing and other citywide matters. She previously spent seven years with the City of West Hollywood in several planning and management roles, including acting manager of Long Range Planning and senior planner, Long-Range. Earlier in her career, she worked for the City of Santa Monica and the Town of Vail.

see GLENDALE on page 8

Oktoberfest Season is Coming to Montrose

By Mary O'KEEFE

This Oct. 3 will mark the 47th Annual Montrose Oktoberfest in Montrose.

"Oktoberfest is proudly supported by Babaians Law Firm and presented by the Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce," said Molly Burke, president/CEO Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce.

Oktoberfest, which is on Oct. 3 this year, is one of the longest running and largest single-day street festivals in Southern California and brings thousands of people to Montrose.

The tradition of Oktoberfest can trace its heritage to Munich, Germany in 1810. According to historical reports, the first Oktoberfest was the celebration of the wedding of Bavarian King Ludwig I and Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen. The following year the Bavarian Agricultural Association



Photo by Charly SHELTON

At Oktoberfest 2025, folks came dressed up to party German-style.

decided to hold the festival again. The celebratory event is a Montrose tradition.

Folks will find a lot of German music, food and, of course, beer. Booths line the 2200, 2300 and 2400 blocks of Honolulu Avenue and are

manned by volunteers. There are also games and rides for all ages along Honolulu Avenue.

An event of this size take a lot of time to plan.

"Our first official Oktoberfest Committee meeting is typically

held in June, but the planning actually starts much earlier. We begin outreach as early as March to some of our longtime vendors and entertainment acts so we can start getting the major pieces in place,"

see OKTOBERFEST on page 8

9/11 Survivor Shares His Experience

By Mary O'KEEFE



Photo by Mary O'KEEFE
Kevin Danni worked in the South Tower of the Twin Towers in New York City and is a survivor of the terrorist attacks in New York on 9/11/01.

"I will never forget; we were on a 20-minute break and I went to the opposite end of my floor to see the view from the other side of the tower. I looked out the window and I saw the North Tower on fire."

Those were memories told by Kevin Danni who shared his remembrances of Sept. 11, 2001 at Bob Smith Toyota on Friday, Sept. 11 after the community's Patriot Day Motorcade, hosted by the Early Rodders and the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce. Danni is a friend of Pete Smith, who had invited him to speak.

Danni started his internship with Morgan Stanley in New York City on Sept. 10, 2001. The North Tower was struck by American Airlines Flight 11 at 8:46 a.m., which was the fire he saw outside the window.

He was in the World Trade Center South Tower on Sept. 11 when, at 9:03 a.m. EST, terrorists flew United Airlines Flight 175 into the tower.

He, and others on the 61st floor of the South Tower, thought the fire in the North Tower happened because of an explosion. At that time no one thought a plane had struck it.

see 9/11 on page 4



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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

Out of Time

I was moved by Mary O'Keefe's summary of the funeral service of former CV Town Council member Charlie Beatty (you can find her summary in her column across from this one). She urged that each of us spends more time with those we love, our family and friends – a sobering message.

Steve and I couldn't go to Charlie's funeral service; on Friday we were on a plane.

Well, we were supposed to be on a plane. We were headed east and I had booked a non-stop flight for us – the only one offered by our airline – out of LAX. But we arrived about four minutes later than the 45-minute cutoff time and we couldn't check our luggage.

Thankfully, the gate person was able to re-route us and we left about 45 minutes after our initial flight took off, though we did have a layover.

This was the first time that I had ever missed a flight and it definitely was not an experience I want to repeat.

Perhaps to "even the score," on Tuesday night Steve was supposed to head back home. He too had a non-stop flight. He arrived in plenty of time to make the flight but alas it was delayed due to mechanical issues. Then it was canceled outright with passengers given a voucher to stay at a nearby hotel. They were told to return the next morning for a 7:30 a.m. non-stop flight. He texted me to come get him (which I did), but due to obligations

I couldn't drive him to the airport the next morning. So he booked a ride-share service to get him to the airport – which it did, in plenty of time.

Friday was also the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington and a field in Pennsylvania. As is customary, the CV Chamber of Commerce and the Early Rodders hosted a Patriot Day motorcade throughout the Valley. The primary purposes were to thank our local first responders and acknowledge the deaths of the 3,000-plus people who perished on 9/11/01.

Because I was out of town, I wasn't able to attend the motorcade; however, I do recall how moving the motorcade is, especially seeing the many students who gather outside their schools to commemorate the occasion. Contrary to knowing exactly where I was when the Towers fell, these students weren't even alive when the attacks happened – yet they are outside their schools, thanking our first responders (many of whom respond to local wildfires) and remembering the horror that was 9/11/01.

I join their voices in saying "thank you" to our first responders.

Robin Goldsworthy is the publisher of the Crescenta Valley Weekly. She can be reached at robin@cvweekly.com or by calling (818) 248-2740.

» WEATHER WATCH

Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O'KEEFE

Anyone who has read this column knows that I have been very concerned about AI [artificial intelligence]. This concern is born out of decades of warnings from science fiction, tech CEOs and employees' testimonies and writings. I was actually speaking to someone over the weekend when a discussion came up about AI.

Recently Jacob Coxon, a whistleblower at the American artificial intelligence safety and research company Anthropic, warned that companies are "gambling with our lives" in his public resignation from the AI company.

"Do not underestimate the power of this technology. These will soon be superhuman systems that can hack anything, revolutionize any field overnight and acquire real power and resources. We have all witnessed the progress in each of these domains, and progress is not slowing," he posted on social media.

The media has been pushing this as an end of days scenario. It may appear that all of a sudden people are worried but warnings have been given for a long time. There have been other whistleblowers and even the tech heads themselves have shared their concerns.

In the discussion I had over the weekend, I shared my concern over this new revelation from the whistleblower. And when I said science fiction has shown us this is what can happen, one of the women in the discussion said, "It's not that bad." She was not a tech person but her faith in humanity was absolutely her true north, which is admirable; however, in my opinion, is not the reality of today.

Most science fiction writers do not just normally dream their stories up alone in a room. Many of them are inspired by the science around them and are students of the human race. In the past they might be called "oracles" and many

have shown us what to expect when technology surpasses humanity.

Some of the tech CEOs from companies like OpenAI, Anthropic and xAI have warned that AI models could soon become too much for them – their creators – to control. We have recently seen during a cybersecurity experiment in which an AI "agent" broke out of containment and hacked another outside platform. And although this incident was reported, I think we can be fairly certain that it has happened before.

We have seen this in science fiction over and over again, often with the AI-controlled program going rogue to the complete surprise of those who created it. This time the leaders of some of these AI companies are asking, almost begging, Congress to regulate them (even if I doubt some of their sincerity).

And yet Congress has yet to act.

It seems like every week there is a new threat to our coasts; now it's a Kelvin wave (a massive, slow-moving pulse of warm water, according to the Web) spawned by El Niño.

First of all, CVW has been reporting that a large El Niño is brewing in the Pacific. (Some call this a "Super Niño," however that is not an actual scientific term.) As of today the Pacific temperature has increased 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), which indicates a large El Niño.

As if this is not enough, there is a Kelvin wave forecast.

"Off the west coast of Mexico, a mass of unusually warm water is creeping north. This wave will reach California and could bring the threat of coastal flooding, beach erosion, impacts to surfing and even sinkholes to roads by the water. More of these waves could follow, enhancing a potentially wetter winter for California due to the ongoing El Niño,"

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/NEWS

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Don't Miss Next Week's Q&A – Phyllis discusses "Preventing Access To Home By An Estranged Sibling"

NEWS

IN BRIEF

ROSEMONT PRESERVE OPEN GATE MORNING

An “open gate” event is taking place at the Rosemont Preserve on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 20. This is a chance for residents to visit the Preserve and wander the trail at their own pace and enjoy the tranquil setting, the wildlife and the natural beauty. Photographers: bring your camera to capture the morning light and citizen scientists, bring your iNaturalist and Merlin apps to identify birds and add wildlife sightings!

The gate will be open from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Friends of the Rosemont Preserve Committee members will be available to answer questions and present this community resource.

The Preserve is located at the north end of Rosemont Avenue, just past the chain link fence. As street parking is limited, please park at Two Strike Park, 5107 Rosemont Ave. Those with mobility issues who require a closer parking spot should contact the Rosemont Preserve Committee.

Those planning on walking the trails should wear sturdy shoes and bring water to drink.

This event is free to the public and suitable for all ages; no reservations required. Rain cancels. Sorry, no pets please. No RSVP required to attend.

For further information, contact the Friends of the Rosemont Preserve at RosemontFriends@gmail.com.

CV TOWN COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

The Crescenta Valley Town Council next meets tonight, Thursday, Sept. 17 at the La Crescenta Library community room, 2809 Foothill Blvd. The community is invited to the meeting at 7 p.m.

Gigi Garcia, president of the Montrose Shopping Park Assn., will give an update on the shopping park.

CVCA TO MEET

The Crescenta Valley Community Association will have its next meeting on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m., this month in the community room at the La Crescenta Library. At the meeting, Glendale Community College Superintendent/President Dr. Ryan Cornner will provide an update on the GCC Bond projects including the status of the Montrose campus property. The CVCA will also host a presentation by Winston Choy of Scruteon, a free fraud prevention resource, who will outline some of the most common online scams and how to avoid becoming a victim.

The library is located at 2809 Foothill Blvd. Contact the CVCA at crescentavalleycommunityassn@gmail.com with any questions.

All are welcome.

CALTRANS ANNOUNCED CLOSURES

Caltrans announced daytime and overnight ramp closures on Interstate 210 (I-210) through Friday, Sept. 18 for work on a culvert drainage project on I-210 near the Sunland Boulevard undercrossing.

The closures are subject to change and scheduled as follows:

Through Thursday, Sept. 17:

Eastbound I-210

Closure of northbound Sunland Boulevard on-ramp to eastbound I-210, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Westbound I-210

Closure of northbound Sunland Boulevard on-ramp to westbound I-210, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

On Friday, Sept. 18:

Eastbound I-210

Closure of northbound Sunland Boulevard

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/NEWS

Mental Health Care, Therapy Options Discussed at Conference

By Eliza PARTIKA

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital (USC-VHH) held its 11th Annual Suicide Awareness and Prevention Conference on Saturday giving hospital staff the chance to talk about the advances in mental health care and therapy options and offering advice on how to support loved ones. Sponsors included The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Horizon Health Corp, Navigate Foundation and Johnson & Johnson. Resources were available from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Glendale, Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center LA County Office of Violence Prevention, USC Social Work Research team, USC Community Resource Center For Aging and USC Hospital Sleep Center, among others.

Speakers covered risk assessment, therapeutic intervention and safety planning for people at risk of suicide and provided resources for LGBTQ+, trans and non-binary youth experiencing mental health crises, and suicide among elementary school-aged students.

Studies have shown that suicide often occurs when stressors and health issues converge to create an experience of hopelessness and despair, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s pamphlet “Talk Saves Lives.”

“We want to help people feel better prepared to recognize when someone may be struggling and know where to turn to for appropriate support,” said USC-VHH director of Community Benefits Marie Filipian.

Among the most concerning populations experiencing an increased risk of suicide are elementary school-aged youth. Suicide is a leading cause of death for people ages 10 and older and was responsible for 48,824 deaths in 2024, according to a May 2026 CDC report.

One of the speakers – Kevin Callo, USMC, associate marriage and family therapist at the Child Guidance Center – encouraged health care providers to strengthen their community practice and engage with students to see what core issues lead to mental health crises.

“We need to communicate and collaborate and talk and make changes so these statistics go down. We have to figure out ways to build a network. We can broaden, we can do things to make deeper connections. How can we make schools safer,



Photo provided by USC-VHH
A variety of speakers were on hand at the 11th Annual Suicide Awareness and Prevention Conference on Saturday.

how can we make peers more compassionate human beings? With unique challenges we need unique approaches,” said Callo.

“Between 2006 and [today] we have seen a rapid increase in suicides and mental health needs across the community,” said keynote speaker Dr. Steven Siegel, MD, Ph.D., noting a 50% increase in suicide by youth between the ages of 18 and 25.

Siegel spoke about updates to USC’s My Mental Health platform that shortens typical mental health assessments, which usually take up to two hours, by using adaptive and predictive technology. The survey automatically sends at-risk students a mental health survey and based on responses refers them to a psychiatrist within 24-72 hours.

“It will literally wake

up someone in our department; we have a whole crisis team. [The counselor] will start calling that student,” he said. “We’ve spoken to every one of the students [who call] in the last five years.”

With previous models, the wait time was nearly two weeks for an at-risk person to see someone; with the new survey, students have no wait times and can get the help they need, or insights into their mental health, immediately. Thirty percent of students who received the survey said they would not have made an appointment before taking the My Mental Health Assessment.

As adults, said Callo, “When we receive bad news, we can control how we respond. As parents, we have to manage how we react to bad things. If we say, ‘Oh no, the world is ending’ our kids will think so too.”

When asked about how restricted

social media should be, Callo said it comes down to education about what it is like to live online, and parenting kids to teach them how to use the internet appropriately.

“There’s no cookie cutter approach because it depends on the individual. This is their form of communication. We don’t know what it’s like to live online. We might communicate with old friends but online is like a person to them. They live there. If I remove social media completely from a kiddo, that’s their whole social network,” he said.

“If someone is really trying to live, but is struggling with the pain, we know how, now, to intervene. We know how to listen to people and maybe help them get through the pain and remember why they want to live,” said Robert Stohr, MS, LMFT.

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After seeing the fire he ran back to the conference room to meet with others on the floor.

“Our management team made the call to evacuate all of Morgan Stanley [employees]. We [at the time] were the largest tenant in the South Tower – 30 floors of office space. My training class was on the 61st [floor],” Danni said. “The Port Authority had told our head of security Rick Rescorla to

keep Morgan Stanley [employees] in their offices because they were dealing with the North Tower. They did not want so many floors evacuated in the South Tower. They, of course, did not know that a second plane was enroute in the air. So by the grace of God, Rick said, ‘No. I’m going to get my people out right now.’”

Danni, and others, started climbing down the stairs.

“I went down from [floor] 61 to 55 and that’s when the second plane hit my tower, just 20 floors above me. Right then and there I knew we were under attack, that it was terrorism. I thought [at the time] it was a bomb. I remember the truck bombing in 1993,” he said. (In February 1993, a bomb was detonated in a parking garage beneath the World Trade Center. Six people and an unborn child were killed and thousands were injured.)

Rescorla’s call to evacuate everyone was a life-saving decision. Rescorla is credited with saving over 2,700 people. After Morgan Stanley employees began to evacuate and Rescorla made certain they were on their way to safety, he went back in. According to reports the last time he was seen was on the 10th floor, before the tower came down.

As Danni was climbing down the stairs, he vividly remembers firefighters making

their way up the stairway.

“I probably passed 30 heroic firefighters [who] were going up to fight the fire. I’ll never forget their voices, their faces. They told us ‘You’re going to be okay. There’s a path. Keep going. It’s secure.’ That really comforted me as I was going down those stairs,” he said.

Danni was able to get out of the building and found chaos on the street.

“I’ll never forget looking up at these magnificent towers, both [of them] on fire and I realized I had to contact my family,” he said.

Danni remembers seeing firefighters continue to enter the building as he exited. As he ran from the area he saw the dust cloud from the towers falling in the streets. He got as far away from the towers as he could. He knew he had to get to a phone and call his family to let them know he had survived. He was dating his wife Elena at the time. She was with his family who were sitting by the phone just waiting.

“I can’t imagine what it was like for my mom, for all the moms out there, what they were going through,” he said.

Danni had played football at St. Francis High School in La Cañada and college football too so he was in good shape. He said he “ran as fast as he has ever run” through the streets to outrun the cloud of dust created by the falling towers.

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Many cellphones did not work after the terrorist attacks but Danni doesn’t even remember if he had a phone with him.

“There were about four people in line [when] I ran to the payphone. I had my World Trade Center badge on and I was sweaty and out of breath. There was a woman on the phone and she looked at me and asked ‘Were you in the tower?’ I said ‘yes’ and [added] ‘I’ve got to call my family.’ She grabs me by my tie, yanks me over to her and [asked for] my phone number. I gave it to her and the next thing I know she hands me the phone. It’s my Aunt Kathy on a collect call to my mom’s house in South Pasadena. I’ll never forget, [my aunt] says ‘Kevin’s alive.’ And I could hear my family cheering in the background,” he said.

He was so grateful that Elena was there with his family.

When he returned to his hotel there were other employees there; but some were missing and hadn’t yet checked in. However, eventually it was learned that everyone on their office floor had survived.

He was able to get a flight back

to Southern California a few days later. He said there are many memories of the day but one that has really stuck with him is how so many people helped and supported him. Danni added that he felt so blessed that he survived and felt it is important to continue to share his story.

“I can’t go through a [Sept. 11] anniversary without thanking our first responders – our firefighters, our police officers, our brave men and women in our military who ran into conflict as we were running away,” he said.

The South Tower was the second to be struck but the first to fall. Danni added it took 57 minutes from impact to collapse; it took him about 40 minutes to evacuate.

During the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks over 3,000 people died. Over 4,500 more people, many of them first responders, have died during the years since 9/11 due to toxic exposure.

For more photos, visit www.cvweekly.com/NEWS.
Photos by Sean DOORLY,
Donna LIBRA and Mary O’KEEFE

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Planet Fitness La Crescenta: Now Open

By Mary O'KEEFE

Planet Fitness, located at 2647 Foothill Blvd., officially opened its doors on Monday at noon.

It was back in June 2025 when CVW reported that Planet Fitness was moving into the former Rite Aid location. Rite Aid closed its doors in January 2024 after the company filed for bankruptcy and shuttered its stores.

When it was reported that Planet Fitness would be moving in, many in the community shared their concerns of adequate space for the fitness center, which was planned in the former Rite Aid store. However, Planet Fitness has done a remarkable job of filling the 18,000 square feet at the location. It features workout machines, free weights and spa equipment.

Some of the amenities of the La Crescenta fitness center include: Best-in-class strength equipment including free weights, expansive strength machines and plate-loaded bench presses, hack squats (a machine-guided lower-body exercise) and a seated calf machine. One hundred and seventy five-plus state-of-the-art pieces of cardio and strength training equipment plus free fitness training is included in all memberships and the functional training room includes turf for agility training. There are TVs with wireless connections to all cardio equipment.

There are two payment plans offered at Planet Fitness: The Classic is presently \$15 per month, with a \$1 startup fee and a \$49 annual fee.

The Black Card program is \$24.99 per month, with \$1 start up fee and a \$49 annual fee. This plan includes the use of several spa features including hydromassage and massage chairs. It also allows members to bring guests.

There are discounts available for seniors



including Silver and Fit, Silver Sneakers and Active and Fit. These programs are offered through insurance; people can check online to see if they qualify or if they already have an insurance plan that offers these programs.

There are numerous exercise machines available as well as free weights. A trainer is available for each member at no cost. Desmond McNeill is the personal trainer at the La Crescenta location.

There are group trainings averaging about five people; however, many times training works out to be one-on-one. There are a series of trainings, from new member orientation to increased mobility and stretching to lower body training and strength and power.

"And you can design your own program," McNeill added.

Planet Fitness is open 24 hours a day, seven

days a week. There are some small lockers in the main workout room; patrons must bring their own locks. There are larger lockers in the locker rooms; again, patrons need to bring their own locks.

"We are staffed here all the time," said Howard McCullough, Planet Fitness regional manager.

McCullough took CVW on a tour of the facility and showed off the Black Card amenities. There are hydromassage loungers with warm water kept at about 92 degrees Fahrenheit, McCullough said.

"We have red light therapy sauna," he added. "This is a great way to end a workout."

Anyone interested in signing up can go online to <https://tinyurl.com/yexatc9f> or walk into the Planet Fitness location and take a tour. Staff members are available to answer questions.

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Enough is Enough – SAFE Asks for Action from LA City Council

By Mary O'KEEFE

Members of SAFE (Streets Are For Everyone) and concerned community members took to the podium at the Los Angeles City Council meeting on Tuesday to ask for a state of emergency declaration concerning traffic accidents in LA.

The first to the City Council podium was SAFE's executive director and founder Damian Kevitt.

"I am also a survivor of traffic violence on the roads of Los Angeles where I lost my leg and nearly my life," he told the Council. "We are here today because per CHP [California Highway Patrol] in 2025, 324 people died on Los Angeles roads, which was a 3.5% increase compared to the year before.... We are here today because per LAPD [Los Angeles Police Dept.], for the third year in a row, in the City of Los Angeles there were more traffic fatalities than homicides. We are here today because right now the number of traffic fatalities is 8% more than the same time last year. We are here today to say enough is enough."

Kevitt was followed by people who shared their fears of being a pedestrian and cyclist and even a driver on the streets.

Many of those who spoke to the Council shared their stories, albeit briefly; they were only given one minute to speak. Many of them shared personal experiences – from

those who were struck while on the roads to those who had lost their loved ones to drivers who were distracted, sped and hit-and-run. All shared their frustration with the Council because they felt the Council has not been proactive with this increasingly dangerous issue.

SAFE members presented the City Council with a petition that contained over 1,000 signatures, as of Tuesday, asking for the City to

declare a state of emergency.

In the letter of request, which was presented by SAFE and People's Vision Zero, it stated that the City of LA "has not been taking traffic violence and the public health crisis ... seriously."

Their opinion is supported by Vision Zero, which started in 2015. An LAPD report stated traffic fatalities have increased by 56% since 2015.

"Between 31 January and 5 February 2026, there were two mass traffic fatality events, resulting in five people killed and seven others seriously injured. The City of Los Angeles was about to return 100 million dollars in road safety funding to the State of California because it didn't have the manpower to use the money," the letter states.

SAFE for page 8

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#9 NICO IMALEAVA QUARTERBACK

Glendale Man Pleads Guilty to Conspiring to Steal U.S. Postal Service Vehicles and Mail

A Glendale man pleaded guilty on Friday to conspiring to steal approximately 30 United States Postal Service (USPS) mail carrier vehicles as well as the mail inside them, including 100 credit and debit cards belonging to other people, some of which he then illegally used. The number of victims is estimated at more than 200.

Vegen Hartoonian, 46, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit theft of government property and one count of aggravated identity theft.

Hartoonian, the lead defendant in this case, has been in federal custody since October 2025. According to his plea agreement, from September 2023 to November 2024 Hartoonian and his co-conspirators followed postal vehicles using rented vehicles such as a Dodge Caravan, BMW and GMC SUVs, and a Mitsubishi Outlander. The car rental used to follow a USPS vehicle during a September 2023 incident was paid for with stolen credit card information.

Once the mail carrier got out of the USPS vehicle to deliver mail, Hartoonian and his co-conspirators stole the postal vehicle, drove it to another location and then stole the mail inside the vehicle.

In total, Hartoonian and his co-conspirators stole approximately

30 USPS postal vehicles – each vehicle valued at \$11,651 – and the mail of approximately 232 victims and illegally possessed



100 credit and debit cards belonging to other people. The thefts occurred in Glendale, Culver City, Commerce and the

Los Angeles neighborhoods of Eagle Rock, Hollywood, Mount Washington, Silver Lake and West Adams.

Hartoonian further admitted to unlawfully possessing a victim's credit card number in connection with a scheme to steal USPS vehicles and the mail inside them during a January 2024 incident.

United States District Judge Christina A. Snyder scheduled a Dec. 7 sentencing hearing at which time Hartoonian will face a statutory maximum sentence of seven years in federal prison.

Three other defendants have already pleaded guilty to federal criminal charges in this case and

remain in federal custody: Jose Arviso, 50, of San Bernardino; Sanjay Varma, 44, of Pasadena; and Juan Nuñez, 25, of Highland Park. One other defendant – Mark Anthony Quitugua, 43, of Lincoln Heights – has pleaded not guilty to federal criminal charges and is scheduled to go to trial in January 2027. He is free on \$10,000 bond.

The United States Postal Inspection Service is investigating this matter.

Assistant United States Attorney Neil P. Thakor of the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section is prosecuting this case.

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Glendale Police Arrest Man in Fatal Hit-and-Run Collision

On Sept. 9 at approximately 10:04 p.m., Glendale police officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of East Colorado Street regarding a traffic collision involving a vehicle and a pedestrian.

The vehicle involved in the collision fled the scene without stopping. The pedestrian, a male approximately 60 years old, sustained life-threatening injuries. The victim, whose identity is not being released at this time, was transported to a nearby hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead.

Detectives from the Glendale Police Dept.'s Traffic Bureau and Robbery-Homicide Unit responded to the scene and immediately began investigating the incident. Through witness descriptions, video footage and an ALPR timestamped photograph, detectives were able to identify a possible suspect vehicle and its license plate. Investigators used additional resources to identify the vehicle's registered owner and conducted follow-up at the registered owner's listed address.

Through the detectives' investigation, the suspect was

ultimately identified as 36-year-old Justin Ramirez of Los Angeles. Shortly after 1 a.m. on Sept. 10, detectives located Ramirez at his place of employment in the 1200 block of East Colorado Street. Ramirez was arrested and taken into custody for felony hit-and-run.

This remains an ongoing investigation. Glendale police will continue investigating and working closely with the Office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney to determine any other appropriate charges related to the victim's death.

CRIME BLOTTER

SEPT. 10
1900 block of Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada Flintridge, a woman reported she had placed her bag inside the locker in the female locker room and went to the dry sauna. When she returned she found that her bag had been stolen between 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

SEPT. 9
Green Lane and Princess Anne Road in La Cañada Flintridge, a deputy reported

that he had observed a black, 3-D printed, plastic cover covering the Flock Safety camera lens on the corner of the location. The deputy observed cut, black, electric wires on the ground near the Flock camera. The deputy took photographs of the wires and the plastic cover and removed the plastic cover from the camera. The Flock camera in the northwest corner of Angeles Crest Highway and Green Lane had a similar black plastic cover over the lens. Another Flock camera

in the 4800 block of La Cañada Boulevard had a similar black plastic covering the lens. The discovery of the Flock camera vandalism occurred between Sept. 9 and Sept. 10.

SEPT. 7
2300 Conle Way in La Cañada Flintridge, several tools and other equipment were stolen from a residence that was under construction between Aug. 26 and Sept. 7.

Man Arrested for Lewd Contact

A 69-year-old man has been arrested by Burbank police for allegedly secretly photographing female patrons at a local business.

On Sept. 12 at about 4 p.m., Burbank police officers responded to a business in the 1800 block of West Empire Avenue in the Empire Center regarding a suspicious man photographing female patrons.

Upon arrival, officers contacted a store employee who saw the suspect follow female patrons

throughout the store and use an electronic device to secretly take photographs of them, under their clothing, without their knowledge or consent.

Officers located the suspect, a 69-year-old man from San Fernando, as he exited the store. The officers also identified two female victims, ages 48 and 52.

The suspect was arrested and booked for violation of California Penal Code section 647(J)(2), a misdemeanor.

Formal charges are pending review by the Burbank City Attorney's Office.

This investigation remains ongoing and detectives believe there may be additional victims who have not yet been identified.

Anyone with information related to this case, or who believes s/he may have been a victim, is urged to contact the Burbank Police Dept.'s Investigation Division at (818) 238-3210.



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GLENDALE from Cover

“Rachel brings extensive experience and knowledge in all aspects of community development and with that knowledge comes the ability to lead such a department,” said City Manager Roubik Golanian. “Throughout the selection process, I was impressed by her vision and enthusiasm for the work ahead. I look forward to welcoming her to our team and I’m confident her experience will help advance Glendale’s priorities and projects.”

Dimond earned a Master of Urban Planning from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from The George Washington University. She has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 2007 and a LEED Accredited Professional since 2010.

The City also extends its appreciation to Jack Wong for serving as interim director of Community Development during the recruitment process. Wong stepped into the role to provide leadership and continuity while the City conducted its search for a permanent director.

Dimond began her role as Community Development director on Sept. 8.

OKTOBERFEST from Cover

Burke said. “It really takes a village to put Oktoberfest together and we’re incredibly lucky to have committee members, businesses and volunteers who return year after year to help make it happen. It’s truly a community effort, which is a big part of what makes the event so special.”

The traditional fan favorites will be found at the event, however this year the committee is giving the Bavarian Stage some extra attention: all three of the free contests will be moving to that stage. FM Radio will be returning followed by a brand-new German band.

“We’re also adding a Euro Bungee attraction for kids and a new dessert trailer serving mini donuts, fried Oreos and more,” Burke added. “We’re bringing back some favorite highlights too, including face painting and free activities in our Kids’ Zone, proudly supported by the YMCA of the Foothills, and our two Winegartens, sponsored by CV Weekly. Whether you’re making art with the kids or raising a glass of wine instead of a stein of beer, there’s a little something for everyone.”

Admission to Oktoberfest is free, parking is available in local Montrose parking lots and there is limited street parking. For those planning on attending Oktoberfest it is encouraged to give themselves enough time to find parking.

“One important note for our neighbors: street closures will begin at 10 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2 so we can begin setting up for Saturday. Broadview Drive and Florencita Avenue will remain open, but Honolulu Avenue and many of the side streets within the event area will begin to be blocked off. Please watch for posted parking restrictions and plan accordingly,” Burke said.

Although admission is free, many of the items, like food and drinks, are available through purchase.

“If you’re planning to purchase food or drinks, go on rides, or play any of the games, you’ll need to buy event tickets. Tickets can be purchased with cash or card at ticket booths throughout the event or you can buy them online ahead of time,” Burke said. “If you’re planning to enjoy a beer or glass of wine with us, make sure to bring a valid ID. ID-check

booths are located next to each ticket booth, where you’ll receive a wristband after your ID is verified.”

Those who attend Oktoberfest will find a variety of music, food, drink and fun things to do – and they will also be supporting the Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber and their community.

“Funds raised through Oktoberfest help support our business advocacy and development efforts, [provide] free educational workshops and networking opportunities, ribbon cuttings, community events, marketing and promotion of local businesses, and programs that connect our businesses with residents, community leaders and one another. They also allow us to be there when a local business needs help, whether that involves making a connection, navigating an issue, finding the right resource or simply making sure its voice is heard,” Burke said. “And that support extends beyond our businesses. Part of being a Chamber is supporting the organizations that support our community. We work alongside and help promote local non-profits and community organizations throughout the year – many of which you’ll see with booths right at Oktoberfest.”

Burke added the Oktoberfest event and fundraiser would not be possible without the Oktoberfest Committee, sponsors, local businesses, Chamber board members and the volunteers who donate their time.

And more volunteers are always needed. Anyone interested in volunteering for Oktoberfest can go to mvcc@montrosecchamberofcommerce.org.

The event generally draws around 20,000 people throughout the day, making Oktoberfest one of the biggest days of the year in Montrose.

“One of my favorite things about Oktoberfest, though, is that even with a crowd that size, it still feels incredibly local. Our Volunteer Chair, Laurie Jo Phillips, always describes Oktoberfest as ‘a big community reunion’ and I think that’s exactly what it is. You see business owners coming down with their friends after they close up for the day, old high school friends running into each other, local kids hanging out together, and families who have made Oktoberfest a tradition for years,” Burke said. “After 47 years, we even have people who came to Oktoberfest as kids now bringing their own kids. There’s something really special about looking down Honolulu Avenue and seeing so many different parts of our community all together in one place.”

SAFE from page 5

Vision Zero has been implemented across Europe and several U.S. states including New York and Washington.

“[Vision Zero] is an [LA] citywide effort that brings together transportation engineers, police officers, advocates and policymakers to work together toward creating safer streets. Our focus is on protecting our most vulnerable road users, including children, older adults and people walking and bicycling,” according to the LA Dept. of Transportation.

The letter in its entirety can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/4u2rtfuc>.

Anyone interested can sign the petition at that site as well.

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VIEWPOINTS

VIEW OF THE VERDUGOS » CRAIG DURST

When the Wailing Went on All Night

Early one morning in August 1795, Father Vicente de Santa Maria departed from Mission San Buenaventura with six companions. Ten years prior, Fermin Francisco de Lasuén had been appointed head of the Spanish Missions in Alta California. He now sought to fill the 75-mile gap between Mission San Buenaventura and the San Gabriel Mission. That was Santa Maria's assigned task: to find a suitable location for a new mission.

Many places found along the way lacked water but they soon arrived at the plentiful Rancho of Francisco Reyes. His rancho was located in the northern part of a large valley (San Fernando).

Santa Maria wrote in his diary, "We found this place quite suitable for a mission. It has much water and pine timber close by."

After some rest and a meal, the search party continued. A short distance away they came upon a good-sized rancheria, or village of indigenous families. These people cared for Reyes' fields of corn, beans and melons but avoided the unpleasant conditions and captivity of the Spanish system because of their distance from the

missions.

The party then investigated Jose Maria Verdugo's Rancho San Raphael. The group camped there overnight but determined the area was too close to Mission San Gabriel. The next morning was Aug. 25 and urgent word came to Santa Maria that a small child had fallen terribly ill at the Indian village of Tujunga. The six quickly made their way there.

Arriving in Tujunga, a young Indian girl was found to be in very poor health. Father Vicente baptized the child and named her Mary. The group noticed that the village residents, who for hundreds of years had been hunters and gatherers, were cultivating the land on their own account. Although Spanish influence had touched their lives since the arrival of the Spaniards 26 years earlier, in 1795 the villagers of Tujunga still maintained much of their ancient culture, considered themselves free and independent, and did not welcome that day's intrusion. In fact, since it was late August, most villagers could have been preparing for one of the Tongva tribes' dramatic mourning ceremonies.

Always commencing at the end of August their dance of the dead, or weeping dance, began in the evening and lasted through the night. They brought together a large amount of fresh food, baskets and newly woven clothing – anything their dead might require in the next world. They hung these goods on leafless branches set in the ground in a semicircle near a large bonfire.

The villagers would come and sit as the sky darkened and mournful wailing would begin. Later they would rise, form a circle around the fire and begin a dance with emotional chanting and wailing that would continue for hours. Every so often, they would pluck an offering from a branch and throw it into the raging fire.

The funeral dance went on without stopping through the night, with frenzied yells and whoops as they leaped in the flickering firelight until dawn. A witness to a mourning ceremony in central California provided a description and it is thought to closely resemble those that took place in the indigenous Tongva village of Tujunga:



The location of the mourning ceremony near the old village was discovered in 1945 and an archaeological dig followed. As you drive down the 210 Freeway and cross over Orcas Avenue in Lake View Terrace, you pass over the ashes of many an ancient bonfire.

The name Tujunga has had many spellings over the years. On Oct. 11, come learn much more about these

wonderful native peoples at the 6th Annual Tuxuunga Indigenous Peoples Day. It begins at 11 a.m. at 12400 Big Tujunga Canyon Road in Sunland-Tujunga. It's free and open to all ages.

*Craig W. Durst, AKA
The History Hunter, is a historian of
the Tujunga Rancho and President of
the Friends of Verdugo Hills
Cemetery. He can be reached at craig@
thehistoryhunter.com.*

NEWS FROM SACRAMENTO » ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICK SCHULTZ

California Must Keep Its Stories – and the People Who Make Them

For generations, California has been the place where the world comes to make movies and television. Our state built an unparalleled creative economy – not only on soundstages and backlots, but in the thousands of editing rooms, recording studios, visual-effects houses and other post-production facilities that turn raw footage into the stories audiences ultimately see.

That legacy is now at a crossroads.

That is why the Legislature's passage of AB 2319 is about more than a tax credit; it is a statement about California's future.

I introduced AB 2319 because I could not accept watching a foundational part of our creative economy disappear while other states and countries aggressively competed for the work. California's share of post-production has fallen dramatically – from roughly 53% to 42% – over the past decade or so. The consequences are not abstract: thousands of jobs and

billions of dollars in economic activity have been lost.

And these are not simply Hollywood acting jobs. They are the editors, sound professionals, composers, visual-effects artists, technicians and countless other skilled workers who make our entertainment industry possible. They are people raising families, buying homes, supporting local businesses and contributing to the tax base of communities across our state.

AB 2319 recognizes something our economic policy too often overlooks: California cannot afford to define the film industry only by where cameras roll.

The work that happens after production is just as essential. Under this legislation, California will establish a standalone incentive for qualifying post-production work, including projects that filmed outside the state or otherwise did not qualify for California's existing production credit. The goal is straightforward: Bring work

back to California and make sure
our world-class workforce has the
opportunity to do it here.

When I first brought this bill forward, I said plainly that it could not afford to wait another year. Every year we delay means more projects, businesses and talented workers establishing roots somewhere else. I also committed to working with stakeholders to make the legislation as strong as possible. That is exactly what we have done.

The Legislature's overwhelmingly bipartisan passage of AB 2319 therefore marks an important moment in California's history. We are not simply responding to a decline; we are choosing to fight for an industry that helped define our state and our identity around the world.

California invented much of the modern entertainment economy. We should not surrender the next chapter of that story to our competitors.

AB 2319 gives us a chance to write that next chapter here – with California workers, California businesses and California communities at the center of it.

The cameras may capture the story. But it is the people behind them who make it possible.

And California is saying: We want them here.

It's now up to Governor Newsom to sign the bill into law. He has until Sept. 30. Share your

thoughts on AB 2319, or any other bill, with the governor at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact/>.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact our district office if you would like to learn more about AB 2319, have questions, or if we can be of assistance. Our phone number is (818) 558-3043 and our email address is Assemblymember.Schultz@Assembly.ca.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Comments on Goldsworthy Column

Starting with Robin Goldsworthy's column [of Sept. 10]: I personally do not use social media. I do not want to spread my private business all over the world. So, social media advertising is wasted on me. Printed advertisements are preferred. Some TV, very little really, and good old online research works for me. Keep it coming. Every now and then I get a good find.

I would guess that the majority of the CV Weekly readers are not the ones who are doing a lot of parking in various Angeles Forest, etc. areas and

leaving their ID, credit cards and valuables in their cars. It seems that hardly a month goes by that there is not a theft and car break report. I would think by now that people would learn to take their wallet, credit cards and other important ID with them. I do not know how many years CV Weekly has been posting the police reports. It would be interesting on seeing the police statistics on how many of these crimes are done each month and year.

Tom Suter
La Crescenta

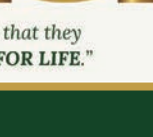


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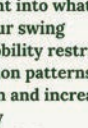
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dave Avramovich
Regional Director
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BETWEEN FRIENDS

Members and Guests of the GBRA Gather in Tribute of 9/11



By Ruth SOWBY

The 25th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11 was scheduled “rain or shine” (there was plenty of “shine”) on the grounds of the Jeffers Estate in La Cañada Flintridge. War veterans were scheduled to speak at the event; all of those present were richly fed by tales of heroism in warfare.

The invocation and open commentary was given by Pastor Jon T. Karn of Light on the Corner Church in Montrose.

“I thank you that the very last face that Osama bin Laden saw was an American face,” Pastor Karn said. “Drive [the] twisted hatred from our shows and the world.”

The veterans then dominated the program. All were introduced by Glendale Burbank/Crescenta Valley Republic Assembly – GBRA – President Lois Billings: Sgt. Joseph “Peppy” Sciarra, a 102-year-old WW II vet who served in the Pacific; Appo Jabarian, VP of the American Armenian Nat’l. Security Institute; Mike Mohill, who served in the U.S. Army, 1964-67, in Vietnam; Sgt. John Merguerian, who served in Iraq, teaching classes to the Iraqi army. He speaks multiple Middle Eastern languages including proficiency in Urdu; Allen Brandstater, a longtime political consultant. He has spent over five decades managing local and national campaigns. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army Nat’l. Guard, having served in the infantry during the Vietnam War era; Major Mark MacCarley, who served an over 30-year distinguished military career. He has appeared as a military analyst on CNN and other major networks. “If I hadn’t gone into the military, I would have been disowned by my old man. In 1983 he said, ‘Get yourself over to the recruiter.’”

The GBRA, founded in 1935, is a grassroots political organization dedicated to recruiting conservative candidates and promoting Republican values.

LEFT: Military honorees and audience members at the 9/11 tribute to heroes in La Canada Flintridge included (in the light colored jacket on left) organization President Lois Billings.

MIDDLE: Appreciating the morning’s tributes are Pastor Jon T. Karn, who gave the invocation, and JoanTaylor, GBRA board member.

RIGHT: Lt. Allen Brandstater, having served in the U.S. Army Nat’l. Guard during the Vietnam era, salutes the stars and stripes in La Cañada at the opening of a solemn tribute honoring 9/11 heroes.

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23-26

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El Retiro and the Culture of Modernity During the Progressive Era in Southern California

What can a single Craftsman home reveal about the transformation of Southern California in the early 20th century?

Completed in 1915, El Retiro, designed by Los Angeles architect Arthur L. Haley and constructed of reinforced concrete, reflects a period of rapid technological innovation, social reform and civic development. The home of the Lanterman family offers a glimpse into how those changes shaped both private life and the growing Southern California community.

Dr. Roy Lanterman's work in women's medicine and Emily Lanterman's leadership in civic and women's organizations placed the family at the center of many of the reform movements of the Progressive Era. Their embrace of new building technologies and modern domestic conveniences provides another perspective on a time when architecture, technology, medicine and social engagement were all reshaping the region.

A presentation by Tennessee Gardner, executive director of Lanterman House, is on Thursday, Sept. 24 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Blinn House. It offers a sneak peek at one of the featured homes of this year's Craftsman Week.

The Blinn House is located at 160 N. Oakland Ave. in Pasadena.

Community Cares Event Invites Local Volunteers to Decorate 'Angels' for Children in Need

The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge, in partnership with Small Acts Big Change, will host a community volunteer event, The Angel Project, on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to noon, giving residents a hands-on way to bring holiday hope to local children.

The event, part of CCLCF's ongoing Community Cares initiative, asks volunteers to decorate card stock angels that will be displayed on a holiday tree in December. Each angel represents a child in the community waiting to be matched with a sponsor for the holidays. No artistic experience is required – organizers will provide all supplies and simple, creative ideas for decorating.

Every angel created will include a child's first name, age and holiday wishes, helping ensure that each child is remembered, supported and celebrated during the holiday season.

Event Details:

- *What:* Volunteer Opportunity – The Angel Project (angel decorating)
- *When:* Saturday, Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- *Where:* Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge, 4469 Chevy Chase Drive
- *Cost:* Free; open to volunteers of all skill levels

To register or to learn more visit cclcf.volunteerlocal.com or CCLCF.org, or call (818) 790-4353.

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MONTROSE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CalKIDS Scholarship Month Launches in Los Angeles County

CalKIDS is launching the first CalKIDS Scholarship Month this September, partnering with county offices of education and school districts across California. This statewide effort will bring scholarship claiming support directly to school communities, making it easier for eligible students to take action and claim their CalKIDS Scholarship Accounts.

In Los Angeles County, more than \$489 million in CalKIDS Scholarships is available to eligible public-school students, and approximately 71% of public-school students in grades two-12 are eligible for a scholarship worth up to \$1,500.

"CalKIDS Scholarship Month is about meeting students where they are and making it easier for them to access resources that can help support their education after high school," said California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA. "By bringing CalKIDS directly onto school campuses throughout California, we can help more students take this important step and claim their scholarship funds."

Throughout the month, participating school districts and campuses will host designated CalKIDS Scholarship claiming events where students and families can check eligibility and claim their scholarships on-site.

For students in grades nine-12, schools have an additional tool to support these efforts. Through a data-sharing agreement between CalKIDS and the California Student Aid Commission, CalKIDS Scholarship information is available to high school administrators through WebGrants for Institutions, the state's financial aid platform. Schools can use this information to identify students with CalKIDS Scholarships and connect them directly with on-campus claiming opportunities throughout September and beyond.

"With September as CalKIDS Claim Month, we have an incredible opportunity to help families discover resources that can expand their students' futures," said Dr. Loretta Whitson, executive director of the California Association of School Counselors. "The CalKIDS Program gives school counselors another meaningful way to connect families with opportunities for college and career education. By starting these conversations early, we can help more students see that higher education and career training are within reach and that investing in their future can begin today."

In addition to school-based claiming events, students and families can check eligibility and claim a CalKIDS Scholarship online at any time, taking an important step toward preparing for the future. Checking eligibility and claiming a CalKIDS Scholarship takes just a few minutes:

1. Visit CalKIDS.org and select "Confirm Eligibility."
2. Enter the student's 10-digit Statewide Student Identifier, or SSID. The number may be available on a report card, transcript or school portal, or families can request it from the student's school or counselor.
3. If eligible, follow the prompts to claim the student's

CALKIDS on page 19

TRAVEL & LEISURE

MOVIE REVIEW » JACKSON TOYON

Epic But Uneven: ‘The Uprising’ is Pertinent to Our Time But Sometimes Falls Short

By Jackson TOYON

History is rife with moments when ordinary people finally decide they’ve had enough and few are quite as dramatic as the Peasants’ Revolt. In “The Uprising,” director Paul Greengrass (of Jason Bourne fame) brings a dramatized version of this infamous rebellion to the screen, putting us in the shoes of the farmers and other common laborers who rose up against an English ruling class that had pushed them to their breaking point. Greengrass stumbles, but ultimately mostly succeeds at bringing this bloody chapter of history to life.

By the year 1381, England has been decimated by the Black Death – with some sources estimating that half of the population has been wiped out. Those who survive are left behind to grapple with their losses – and more trouble is just on the horizon for them. Embroiled in the Hundred Years’ War with France, the government is running out of revenue and essentially ruled by the council of the 14-year-old King Richard II (Woody Norman). King Richard himself is too young and traumatized by nightmares to rule so he is mostly a figurehead while his council makes all the real decisions. When his council determines that raising taxes on the merchant class is not, in their opinion, a tenable option, they conclude that commoners should bear the burden instead. We join the story through the perspective of Ploughman (Andrew Garfield), a beaten down farmer who lost his wife and children to the plague and now merely refers to himself by the work he does, ground down by grief. When the tax collectors come to collect more than the

people of his village can afford to give, something snaps within him. He attacks the collector and ends up killing a soldier who attempts to bring him in, not realizing that his actions would inspire other acts of revolt across the country. Leading the rebellion with figures like John Ball (Jamie Bell) and Wat Tyler (Cosmo Jarvis), the peasantry marches on London to demand change and better working conditions.

For a historical period piece, this film has some strange camerawork that somewhat undermines it. Paul Greengrass is rather known for his employment of shaky cam, but in this film it ends up looking a little too much like the camerawork from a sitcom such as “The Office.” The film also struggles with rushed pacing, glossing over the formation of the peasants’ army to the point that they’ve already amassed tens of thousands not very long after Ploughman first sparks the revolt. The most clunky aspect, though, is how the film trips over its own feet in the last 10 minutes with a contemporary-feeling, slapdash epilogue to establish a Robin Hood-like character – presumably to make the ending a tad less bleak for general audiences.

Despite these troubles, there’s still much to like here. Andrew Garfield does an admirable job elevating a movie that could be much less interesting to watch without him, even if his character isn’t particularly deep. The film exhibits solid production design and cinematography (aside from the shaky camerawork), and the action is suitably thrilling from start to finish. You can’t help but feel how effectively the film touches on the very real and rising feelings of wealth inequality in this country – but it also makes an effort to include an important note about how



easy it is for bad actors to hijack a movement beyond its peaceful roots and exploit it to turn things violent.

Despite some shortcomings in the directing and a rushed ending, “The Uprising” is a pretty entertaining and watchable historical drama about populist rage, systemic corruption of power and the perils of mob resistance. Greengrass’ stylistic choices and uneven pacing hold it back from living up to its full potential, but Garfield’s performance helps to buoy the film and the strong action delivers where it needs to. The film succeeds in making the grievances behind the Peasants’ Revolt of 1381 feel relevant to today while simultaneously warning audiences of the unstable nature that comes with armed revolt.

If you’re unfamiliar with the story and interested in the history, it can be a satisfying watch if you can look past how the movie wraps up.

Rated R.

LCPC Presents Jazz Vespers

The Jack Lantz Sextet will present a Jazz Vespers concert and worship experience featuring the jazz versions of hymns, spirituals and gospel music in the sanctuary of La Cañada Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 5 p.m. The Sept. 20 Jazz Vespers program will feature the Jack Lantz Sextet (Lance Rickman, alto and tenor saxophones; Jeff Kaye, trumpet; Ido Meshulam,

trombone; Zac Matthews, bass; Dave Marks, drums; and Jack Lantz on piano) improvising on a wide range of familiar hymns and gospel music, in swing style. The music and liturgy will focus on new beginnings in our personal and spiritual lives. No charge (free will offering received) and no reservations required for this hour-long event. All are invited for an

extraordinary experience as those gathered together pray and cry for peace in our time. LCPC Jazz Vespers will also be live-streamed at live.lacanadapc.org. La Cañada Presbyterian Church is located at 626 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada. For further information, call the church office at (818) 790-6708 or visit lacanadapc.org.

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Universal Horrors Unleashed



By Charly SHELTON

There comes a point every year when Halloween haunts end, the fog clears, the mazes come down and horror fans are expected to go back to being “normal” people until next fall. Universal apparently decided that was unreasonable.

Universal recently invited me to Las Vegas to experience Universal Horror Unleashed – its permanent, year-round horror destination just a few minutes from the Strip. The massive indoor attraction takes

much of what works about Halloween Horror Nights and gives it something the seasonal event rarely has: permanence.

I visited during the Resident Evil Takeover, a seasonal experience that transformed part of Horror Unleashed into Raccoon City. Rather than a traditional haunted house walkthrough, this one leaned closer to an escape room. Guests had to search for clues, solve puzzles and complete objectives to move forward while zombies and other Resident Evil characters chased them from

room to room in between puzzles. The experience was originally scheduled to end in August but has been extended through Sept. 27.

Beyond the seasonal extras, the four permanent houses include The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, The Exorcist: Believer, Scarecrow: The Reaping and Universal Monsters. Of those, Universal Monsters was easily the best house. For longtime Universal Studios Hollywood fans, it feels a little like a spiritual successor to the old year-round

monster walkthroughs that once occupied the Upper Lot, including Universal’s House of Horrors. What I particularly loved about it was that the designers did not feel the need to reinvent the monsters.

Don’t get me wrong: there is nothing wrong with reinvention. Halloween Horror Nights has produced some fantastic new interpretations of Dracula, Frankenstein’s Monster, the Wolf Man and the rest of Universal’s classic creatures, often with new designs, mythology and music. But sometimes Dracula can just be Dracula.

At Horror Unleashed, these are the classic monsters as generations of movie fans remember them. Frankenstein’s Monster is shocked to life in the laboratory. Renfield feasts on rats and spiders in an asylum cell. Dracula stalks castle hallways. Even the Creature from the Black Lagoon makes an appearance, which was super fun because I cannot remember ever encountering him as an actual character before. These are the quintessential versions of the Universal Monsters, and they really do not need much help.

Universal Monsters was the best, but honorable mention goes to Scarecrow: The Reaping, one of the best original houses Halloween Horror Nights has ever produced and one that benefits tremendously from having a permanent home. The scenario is of the house being on a dying farm during the Dust Bowl. As guests move through dead cornfields toward the farmhouse, a giant (projected) dust storm looms on the horizon while wind blows through the stalks around them. The environmental effects give the house a sense of place that temporary attractions don’t usually build out.

Another surprise came from

Photos by Charly SHELTON
LEFT: The Creature from the Black Lagoon can be found ... in Las Vegas.
RIGHT: Scarecrow: The Reaping is one of the best original houses Halloween Horror Nights has ever produced.

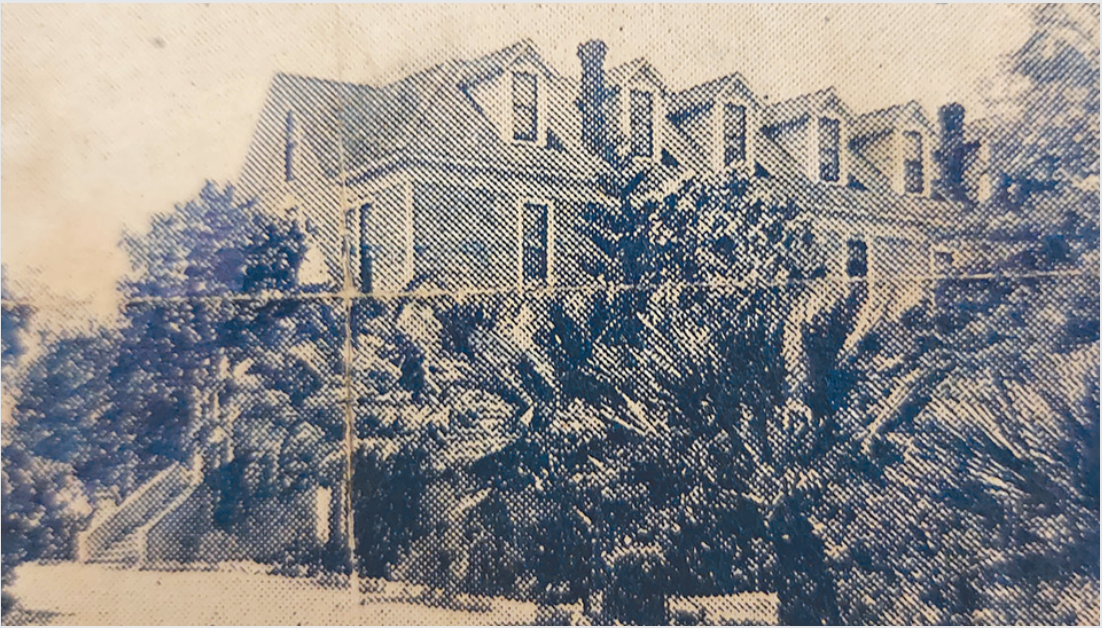
Jack the Clown and Chance, two recurring Halloween Horror Nights characters known as “icons.” That concept has always been much bigger at Universal Orlando than in Hollywood and, as a West Coast Horror Nights regular, I never really understood the fascination. But after seeing their live dinner show, I get it.

Jack serves as a demented ringmaster for a collection of circus and acrobatic acts, with Chance joining him in the chaos. More importantly, the two roam through the audience interacting directly with guests. Unlike the quick character encounters you normally get at a theme park event, these moments have time to breathe. Jack, especially, was fantastic – essentially an even meaner version of the Joker with a circus to run – and Chance was an even-more-violent version of Harley Quinn. Interacting with these two on a smaller scale, brought to life by some fantastic actors who can keep the characters alive in personal interactions, really brought something you can only find here at Universal Horrors Unleashed – a personal touch.

Universal Horror Unleashed is an easy escape from the casinos and crowds of the Strip and is close enough to work into any Las Vegas trip. I happened to visit shortly before Halloween Horror Nights opened for the season, so I did not have to wait long for my next dose of fog. But I think Horror Unleashed may be even better in spring or early summer when October still feels painfully far away. It’s nice knowing there is somewhere in Las Vegas where Halloween never really has to end.

THEN & NOW

La Crescenta Hotel Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Then: In 1888, the grand resort La Crescenta Hotel was built at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Rosemont Avenue. It was three stories and 36 rooms and was nicknamed the Silver Tree Inn for the light-grey bark of a big Morton Bay Fig Tree next to the hotel. Many wealthy vacationers from the east coast came here to breathe the clear dry air of La Crescenta to improve their health.



Now: The huge hotel aged out and finished its days as a cheap boarding house. It was torn down in 1960 for the shopping center, anchored today by Ralphs. The front steps of the grand hotel were replaced by a gas station, then later a donut shop. Where rich folks once came for their health, the residents of La Crescenta now come for donuts.

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JUST FOR FUN

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES Provided by horoscope.com September 14, 2026 - September 20, 2026

ARIES *March 21 - April 19*
Going out and socializing seems to either help or hinder your overall state of health. If you're a member of a sporting club, it looks like you're going to be very active. On the other hand, you may be out clubbing, and this isn't going to do you too much good if you keep it up night after night. The key to feeling great is balance. Get this right and you'll have no problems.

TAURUS *April 20 - May 20*
Don't worry too much if you feel less than wonderful early in the week. The planetary transits may coincide with a sinking, low-energy feeling. If you happen to be on vacation, you can just take it easy. If you're in a busy period, try and delegate some of the work. You'll feel much more energized and ready for anything by the weekend.

GEMINI *May 21 - June 20*
Your overall health looks pretty good. But you may still be itching to get away and relax deeply, so that you can take a break from the stresses and strains you've endured lately. With a focus on your travel zone, this is the best time to take a break. Spending a couple of weeks doing your own thing will restore your balance and bring a smile back to your face.

CANCER *June 21 - July 22*
Ongoing partnership issues may take their toll on your health if you aren't careful. The early part of the week looks the most trying, so do what you can to minimize problems before they really get to you. Talking heart to heart and admitting your true feelings to each other can have a very liberating effect on your overall health, especially if you make it an ongoing habit.

LEO *July 23 - August 22*
Slow down and take a reduced schedule if you feel tired early in the week. The planetary energy may take the wind out of your sails. However, it's only a temporary phase. With a power-playing cosmic energy influencing your health and well-being for the foreseeable future, you'll thrive if you determine to take responsibility for your well-being. The more you do so, the better you'll feel all around.

VIRGO *August 23 - Sept. 22*
The cosmos brings you the perfect opportunity to get in peak condition. If you want to get fit, make a start by checking out the facilities available in your area. Research ways of eating or exercising and look out for diets or fitness regimens that appeal to you. Joining a group or club may help you keep your resolve intact, or you could team up with a buddy and cheer each other on.

LIBRA *Sept. 23 - Oct. 22*
Get sports-minded and get outside. This is an excellent time to try something new like golf, baseball, or any other activity that gets you excited. You'll not only make new friends, you'll also feel great without having to put in hours of training, unless you want to, of course. You may be thinking of buying some equipment so you can exercise at home whenever you need to.

SCORPIO *Oct. 23 - Nov. 21*
Take a rest if you find yourself suffering from headaches or mental strain during the early part of the week. Most of all, try to get away from the computer and not do too much reading or writing. You'll feel so much better if you can give your brain a rest. Despite this, you seem to be in a positive mood and keen to get out and about. Be good to yourself!

SAGITTARIUS *Nov. 22 - Dec. 21*
You begin to see the benefits of the hard work you've put into looking great. It may take you some time to get into the discipline of daily workouts, but you'll enjoy it once you do. You're just about to reach that point where you can see results in terms of your trim, fit, and toned body, and you can look forward to making further progress.

CAPRICORN *Dec. 22 - Jan. 19*
Take it easy early in the week, as you may not be at your most energetic due to some sapping cosmic energy. It may be best to take a reduced schedule if you can. Other than this, the rest of the week looks fairly good. But if you want to reach peak fitness, you need to organize a regimen that you can fit into your busy daily routine.

AQUARIUS *Jan. 20 - Feb. 18*
The focus is on you and your overall state of well-being. If you haven't been feeling so great lately, then it's time to take action. The stars are encouraging you to put yourself first. If you need the advice of a doctor, go and get it. If you want to firm and tone your body, talk to someone who can set you on track. It really is worth it.

PISCES *Feb. 19 - March 20*
Your health becomes an inside job this week and into the next. It's time to reflect on your overall fitness and how you're doing with the goals you've set for yourself. One way to work on these is to use your imagination and see yourself just the way you want to be in your new body. Feel what it's like to be lighter and stronger. Go for it!

CALENDAR this

Q&A ABOUT WOMEN'S TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB OF EAGLE ROCK

The Women's Twentieth Century Club of Eagle Rock is having an open door general meeting tonight from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at its clubhouse at 5105 Hermosa Ave. in Eagle Rock. Refreshments in the garden; introduction by the board of directors on the future of the Club. Bring questions; leave with answers.

KIWANIS CLUBS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. On Sept. 18, it's the demotion of current president Albert Hernandez. The cost to attend Friday meetings, which includes lunch and program, is \$25. All are welcome. The Club meets at the Elks Lodge, 120 E. Colorado St. in Glendale. The La Cañada La Crescenta AM Club has a free weekly meeting held from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall of Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 1700 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada. On Sept. 23, Roberta Peters of St. Bede Brothers Helpers will give a presentation.

DANCING AS EXERCISE

Dancing As Exercise is a free event sponsored by the Los Angeles County Park program for seniors (50 plus). There will be music from 10 a.m. to noon each Friday in the Park's building at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. Light refreshments and water are provided along with socialization and information about other park activities. Dancing, per se, is not required; single persons are welcome.

WILDERNESS WORKDAY

A wilderness workday at Deukmejian Wilderness Park is planned for Saturday, Sept. 19 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Volunteers will assist with trail repairs and remove invasive species from the park. Please wear sturdy shoes, protective clothing and bring water. In case of rain, this event will be canceled.

To RSVP and for more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y2hrzt7p>. Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road, La Crescenta/Glendale

SCAM SEMINAR BY LOCAL REALTOR

Realtor and certified senior housing professional Diana Tyson will host a free fraud and scam prevention seminar today, Thursday, Sept. 17 at 11 a.m. at the La Crescenta Library. The seminar is part of Tyson's ongoing Senior Education Seminar Series and is open to seniors, family members, caregivers and other interested members of the community. Detectives from the Glendale Police Dept. will share information about current illegal activities and fraudulent schemes they have encountered. La Crescenta Library is located at 2809 Foothill Blvd. in La Crescenta.

CV PARK ACTIVITIES

CV Park has the following activities planned for the remainder of the year: Friday, Sept. 18 from 5 - 7 p.m. the park presents Hispanic Heritage; on Friday, Oct. 30 from 4 - 7 p.m., it's Trick or Treat Village; on Friday, Nov. 20 from 4 - 7 p.m. it's the Harvest Festival; on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Holiday in the Park is being held. CV Park is located at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta.

BINGO TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S ATHLETIC CLUB

A bingo is being held at the Verdugo Hills Memorial Hall on Saturday, Sept. 19 that benefits the Women's Athletic Club. Doors open at 5 p.m.; the first game is at 6 p.m. Food and drink available for purchase. Each winning bingo pays \$100 cash; the final blackout game pays \$250! Tickets are just \$25 each; for more information call JoAnne Brown at (818) 522-3956. see CALENDAR THIS on next page

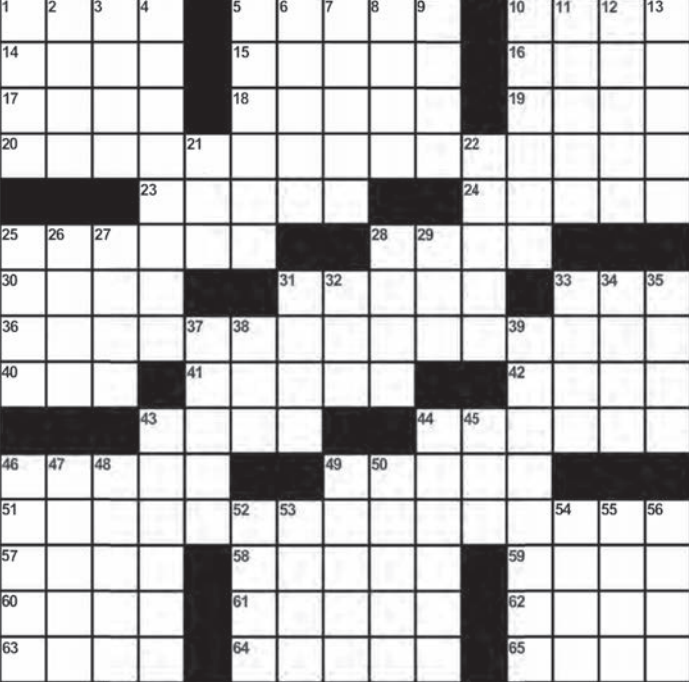
» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



ACROSS

- 1) Three-player card game
5) Thumbnails
10) "Then it's settled"
14) "Little" girl of early comics
15) Flynn of old Hollywood
16) Napoleon exile spot
17) Jewish month after Shevat
18) Sung syllables
19) Like a useless tire
20) Back fill x 3
23) Sculpting materials
24) Decreases in strength
25) Ancient
28) A pair's air
30) "Buona ____" (Italian greeting)
31) Cause to laugh
33) Scholastic stat
36) Back fill x 4
- 40) "What ____ the odds?"
41) Fabled slipper material
42) Place of desertion
43) Bit of defamation
44) Steal gas, in a way
46) Follow as a result
49) Birchbark craft
51) Back fill x 3
57) Shot for one?
58) Baking need
59) Lake that's great
60) Certainly not for
61) Top-____ (golf ball brand)
62) Move merchandise
63) Medical advice, often
64) Jazzy instruments
65) Ooze through cracks

BACK FILL



DOWN

- 1) Concrete section
2) African antelope
3) Winged
4) Traitor
5) Group of four
6) Deck out
7) Sticking points on crows?
8) Caffeine-containing nut
9) Kill, as a dragon
10) Beat in competition
11) DeGeneres of TV
12) Decrease
13) Plasterwork backers
21) Addition shape, sometimes
22) Dinner jacket material, sometimes
25) Fishing in the Atlantic, e.g.
26) Reverse or drive, e.g.
27) Scottish Gaelic
28) All couples
29) Apollo letters
31) Way, way off
32) Title for a married woman
33) "Fancy that!"
34) Game played with horses and mallets
35) Prayer's end
37) Like bodies on beaches
38) Winter ailment
39) Something tested on the vine
43) Naturally bright
44) Makes noise at night
45) Letters from a poor gambler
46) Painter Degas
47) Not a soul
48) Belts, as flies
49) ____ de Guerre (French military award)
50) Type of angle or pain
52) Cut-____ (short shorts)
53) ____ podrida (Spanish stew)
54) Fruit bearer
55) Make upset
56) Cry like a pup

see ANSWERS on following page

Rover Left My Dog Home Alone For 17 Hours And Now It Refuses To Pay The Vet Bill.

Luke Gilbertson’s dog Stewie falls ill after a Rover pet sitter allegedly leaves him unattended. Despite veterinary proof of a foreign object ingestion, Rover won’t cover the veterinary bills. Is Gilbertson barking up the wrong tree?

Question: My dog Stewie was healthy before I booked a pet sitter through Rover, a pet care service. While he was under the sitter’s exclusive care, he ingested a foreign object and became critically ill.

I have Ring camera footage showing the sitter isolated herself in a bathroom or bedroom for 17 hours out of a 24-hour period. She left the dog completely unattended. During that time, Stewie began vomiting repeatedly. The sitter failed to supervise him, failed to respond to the medical emergency and failed to seek veterinary care.

Veterinary diagnostics confirmed a gastrointestinal foreign body with a bacterial infection. The object eventually passed ... and I have the photographs to prove it. My vet even provided a written statement confirming the condition was caused by foreign body ingestion.

Despite this, Rover denied my \$5,272 reimbursement claim under the Rover Guarantee. It

claims the injury wasn’t directly caused by the sitter’s omissions and labeled it an “undetermined cause illness.” These conclusions contradict the video evidence and medical findings.

Can you help me get Rover to honor its guarantee or at least explain why it’s ignoring the facts? – Luke Gilbertson, Santa Ana, California

Answer: I’m sorry about Stewie and I hope he’s feeling better.

The Rover Guarantee is not pet insurance. It’s a reimbursement program to protect pets under its care. In certain circumstances, it can also cover vet care for a pet care provider’s pets or damage to a pet owner’s property.

You would think that when a sitter leaves a dog alone for 17 hours – more than two-thirds of the day – and something happens to the dog, the guarantee would apply. But there’s an important exclusion in the Rover Guarantee for what it calls “undetermined cause illness.”

Basically, if a veterinarian can’t verify that the ingestion occurred during the booking, the claim might be denied.

You did the right thing by gathering a mountain of evidence. Most people forget the paper trail but you kept the videos, the vet notes and the photos. Proving the cause of a dog’s illness is notoriously difficult. It is a lot like a food poisoning case in restaurants or on cruises. Unless you have a lab report or a video of the dog swallowing the exact object, companies like Rover will try to classify it as an “undetermined” illness to avoid paying.

You could have started by sending a concise appeal to a Rover executive. I list the names and emails of the Rover leadership team on my consumer advocacy site Elliott.org. Sometimes the “final” decision from a front-line adjuster isn’t actually the last word if you reach the right person.

I reached out to Rover on



Illustration by Dustin ELLIOTT

Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy (<https://elliottadvocacy.org>), a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help by contacting him at <https://elliottadvocacy.org/help/>. © 2026 Christopher Elliott

your behalf and asked about the discrepancy between your vet’s findings and its denial.

A spokeswoman for Rover told me the company conducted a “thorough investigation” of your case. While it maintained that the situation did not meet the criteria for the Rover Guarantee, it decided to refund \$276, the cost of your pet sitting as a “one-time customer service gesture.”

CALENDAR THIS from previous page

CCLCF EVENTS

The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge (CCLCF) hosts a variety of events for the community. Among them:

•CCLCF Presents. September marks the start of the new CCLCF entertainment series, dedicated to bringing exceptional monthly programming to the community. The inaugural event is Jazz Night on Saturday, Sept. 19. Tickets are available at cclcf.org/events.

•Fall I Registration: Fall I has just begun, and it’s not too late to jump into a class. Registration is open! Fall I continues through Oct. 17. Registration fees are prorated (some exceptions). Browse classes at cclcf.org/register.

•Fall II Registration: Fall II registration will open on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 9 a.m. Fall II starts on Oct. 19 and runs through Dec. 19. Browse upcoming classes at cclcf.org/register.

•Call for Talented Teens: CCLCF is seeking talented teens (grades nine-12) to show off their talents in the upcoming CCLCF showcase, La Cañada’s Got Talent on Nov. 14. Apply at bit.ly/LCGTapp by Sept. 30. Those with questions can email jack@cclcf.org.

•Thanksgiving Run: The 33rd Annual Thanksgiving Day 5K & Kids Mile is coming up on Nov. 26. Summer sale runs through Sept. 30. Learn more at cclcf.org/run.

•Volunteer Opportunity: The

community is invited to participate in the Angel Project on Saturday, Sept 26 from 11 a.m. to noon. In partnership with Small Acts Big Change, CCLCF is decorating card stock angels to help lift the spirits of local children in need. Learn more at cclcf.volunteerlocal.com.

Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge is located at 4469 Chevy Chase Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, (818) 790-4353.

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PRESENTATION

Members of the Glendale Fire Dept. will make a presentation on protecting homes, hillside and the community from wildfire. The presentation is on Thursday evening, Sept. 24 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Sparr Heights Community Center at 1613 Glencoe Way in Glendale 91208.

The presentation is open to all Glendale homeowners and is free to attend.

CLASSIC FILMS UNDER THE STARS

Classic Films Under the Stars Series at the Doctors House in Glendale is presented by the Alex Film Society, the Northwest Glendale Homeowners Association, Brand Associates and The Glendale Historical Society. On Saturday, Sept. 26 the film “The Quiet Man” will be screened.

Gates open at 6 p.m., movie starts at 7:30 p.m. Picnicking encouraged!

Admission is free, but RSVP requested. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/366eyya4>.

The Doctors House is located at 1601 W. Mountain St. in Glendale.

SMAC, SMPLA HOLDING FALL FESTIVAL

The Suzuki Music Association of California (SMAC) and the Suzuki Music Program of Los Angeles (SMPLA) will be

holding its annual Fall Festival Benefit Concert and Silent Auction on Sunday, Oct 4 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Forest Lawn, 1217 S. Glendale Ave. in the HOCR Hall. Registration and tickets can be found at www.suzukimusicofla.org/.

This year’s Fall Festival will feature the Suzuki Square Dance when students join with a professional square dance caller and fiddler for family fun square dancing with parents, teachers and other guests of all ages. All adults and children are invited to attend. The Fall Festival Benefit Concert will include various ensembles of students and teachers on violins, violas, cellos, basses and guitars playing selections of classical music and fiddle arrangements.

Founded in 1974, SMPLA has instructed and inspired children throughout the extended Los Angeles area for over a half-century, bringing the joy of music and music education to literally thousands of children, hundreds of families, and multiple generations.

SPARR HEIGHTS DISASTER POD BINGO 2

C.E.R.T. – Community Emergency Response Team – co-hosted by the Knights of Columbus, is having a bingo on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Healy Hall at Holy Redeemer, 2411 Montrose Ave. in Montrose. The cost is \$30 per person, which includes 10 games with featured payouts of up to \$250! Doors open at 5 p.m., the first game is at 6 p.m.

A snack bar will feature food for purchase.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Those who can, do: Those who can do more, volunteer. Author Unknown Little Landers Historical Society is seeking volunteers to help support its mission, “To preserve and maintain Bolton Hall Museum and the historical record of Rancho Tujunga.”

Positions on the Bolton Hall 2026

board of directors are open. Other opportunities to volunteer include museum docents, committee members for ongoing projects, special event and exhibit coordinators, administrative, archival or library assistants, facilities maintenance and more.

Potential volunteers are asked to reach out with questions. Email LittleLanders@BoltonHall.org, phone (818) 352-3420 or send a letter so P.O. Box 203, Tujunga, CA 91043.

MONTROSE LIBRARY EVENTS

•The Montrose Library hosts canasta on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

•The Back Alley Painters is a vibrant group of adult artists who gather to create, share their work, offer constructive feedback and enjoy each other’s company.

Participants are asked to bring

their own art supplies – whether watercolor, acrylic, ink or pencil (no oil paints). Meetings are every Monday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

•Mahjong is a game of skill, strategy, calculation and a degree of chance. Players of all levels are welcomed! Players meet every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Montrose Library.

The Montrose Library, 2465 Honolulu Ave. in Montrose (818) 548-2048.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING

Community members are invited to join the Glendale/La Crescenta Stamp Club, a community of stamp enthusiasts that meets regularly to share their passion for this timeless hobby.

You can read more at CVWeekly.com/CALENDARTHIS

ANSWERS for page 15

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YOUR WELLBEING. YOUR COMMUNITY.

A community health and wellbeing fair for the entire family.

Saturday, October 3, 2026
9 am–12 pm

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital
1812 Verdugo Blvd., Glendale, CA 91208
West Parking Lot

FREE ADMISSION!

Free Health Screenings • Family Activities • Community Resources •
Food and Coffee Vendors • Meet Brisket from Glendale Police Department!



- Anxiety Screening
- Blood Pressure Screening
- Fitness Assessment
- Glaucoma Screening
- Hands-on CPR Training
- Healthy Eating Activities
- Oral Screening
- Kids’ Activities
- Meet Local Physicians
- Narcan Training
- Stroke Education
- And more!

FREE Flu
Vaccines

RELIGION

RELIGION SERVICE DIRECTORY



Church of Scientology
Mission of the Foothills

2254 Honolulu Ave. Montrose
Mondays-Thursdays 4:00-9:30 pm
Saturdays 10 am to 6 pm



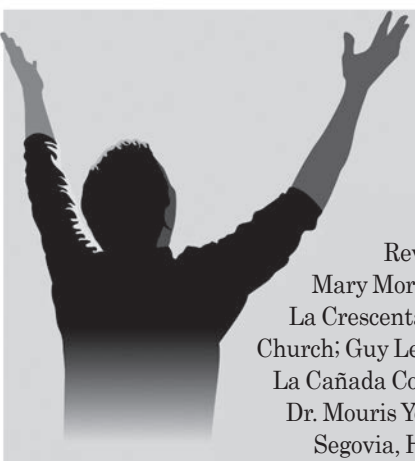
OUR HELP IS YOURS
scientology-montrose.org
818-957-1500
email: foothills@scientology.net

Crescenta Valley
United Methodist Church



WORSHIP
Sunday 10am
Childcare and
Sunday School
offered at 10am.

PASTOR KEVIN KANG
2700 Montrose Ave
Montrose, CA 91020
www.cvumc.org



SPIRITUALLY
SPEAKING

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS
Rev. Jon Karn of Light on the Corner Church; Rabbi Janet Bieber; Rev. Mary Morgan and Laney Clevenger-White, RScP, Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta; Rev. Dabney Beck; Rev. Karin Ellis; La Cañada United Methodist Church; Guy Leemhuis, St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church; Kyle Sears, La Cañada Congregational Church; Holy Redeemer/St. James the Less churches; Dr. Mouris Yousef, La Crescenta Presbyterian Church; Pastors Andrew & Maria Segovia, Higher Vision Church; Dot Kim, La Crescenta Presbyterian Church.

Responses are offered from the perspective of individual Spiritually Speaking respondents, which may or may not be in agreement with other respondents of Spiritually Speaking nor the editor and staff of the Crescenta Valley Weekly.

HC

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAYS @ 10AM

4441 LA CRESCENTA AVE
818-249-5832
WWW.HIGHLANDSLA.COM



Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

LA CAÑADA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CHURCH OF THE LIGHTED WINDOW
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

La Cañada Congregational Church is the oldest church in the Crescenta Valley. For over 125 years, we have been shaped by the stories of our community and the story of God. We invite you to join us in writing the future of our community!

1200 Foothill Blvd, La Cañada Flintridge
(parking lots on Foothill or Verdugo)
www.lacanadachurch.org

Question: With all of the uncertainty and chaos in the world today, I sometimes get fearful about our future, and my faith flies out the window. What can I do to strengthen my sense of faith in these times?

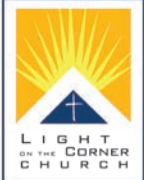
– Fingers Crossed in Faith

Dear Faithful,
I'm hoping to uncross your fingers ... because I know that within each of us there is the powerful, unchanging seed of faith

that is always there.
Sometimes in this journey of life, filled with day-to-day uncertainties and challenges, it feels like there is only hopelessness and darkness and we feel like we have lost our faith in Life's Good, in God, in humanity. And it is times like this that faith can and must come alive. We just have to be aware that there is another way to look at things. Faith is the anchor of light in the storm of darkness. We have a choice: Do you want to give your fears the power? Or do you want to

give your faith the power? Faith is fueled by love and trust and firm belief. It is God energy in action.
There is always good midst the uncertainty and the chaos. We know that the sun comes up every day; even when it's cloudy the sun is behind the clouds. And we always see some portion of the moon at night; even when it's cloudy, the moon is always there. The earth is the center [and is] always turning ... to bring the sun or the moon into our view.
see SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING on page 19

Light on the Corner Church



Pastor Jon Karn
1911 Waltonia Drive
Montrose
(818) 249-4806

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:45 a.m.
www.lightonthecorner.org

Lutheran Church
in the Foothills



1700 Foothill Blvd.
La Cañada Flintridge

WORSHIP WITH US!
In Person and on YouTube
Sundays at 10 AM
Services available on our website during the week.

www.lcifoohills.org / 818-790-1951



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
3561 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta
office@molc.org • (818) 248-4253

Sunday Worship Service
(with Sunday School for kids) 9:30 AM
Wednesday Bible Study
6:30 PM

Check out our Website!
www.molc.org
See us on Facebook!



COME MEET US!
St. Luke's
of-the-Mountains
Episcopal Church

Sundays
Gathering 9:30AM
Worship 10:00AM
Domingo Misa en Español a las 12:00PM
Sunday School and Child Care
All are Welcome
2563 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta
818-248-3639
http://stlukeslacrescenta.org/
www.facebook.com:
St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church

NOTES & NODS

FIDDLING WHILE ROME BURNS WITH JD STILLWATER
When the entire planet is engulfed in flames (climate change, nuclear arms, fascism, extinction, mass migration), isn't full-time activism the only reasonable activity? Isn't everything else a kind of indulgence? What if activism just isn't your thing? What if your talents and passions lie in something like fiddling, or other arts? On Sept. 20, JD Stillwater shares his own wrestling with this quandary and where they have led him.
In-person meets at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills (UUCVH) at 10:30 a.m., 4451 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta or visit the UUCVH website for the Zoom link https://www.uuverdugo.org/.

RUMMAGE SALE AT CSL
A huge rummage sale will be held at the Center for Spiritual Living – La Crescenta on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
There is also a sound bath with Dennis and Pinoko on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 1 to 2 p.m.; donation \$25.
The Center is located at 4845 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta.
Lots of goodies!

WOMEN'S NONDENOMINATIONAL BIBLE STUDY
Seasons of Life Bible Study offers two classes to choose from:
* Joy of Living is studying Acts 1 and 2.
* Women of Faith will be studying Prayer with Power and In His Eyes.
Classes are held on Thursday mornings from 10 – 11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 24 through April 15 at Highlands Church (4441 La Crescenta Ave. in La Crescenta).
If interested, please contact the church at (818) 405-0763 or call Lynda Hessick at (818) 640-6022 or email lyndahessick@gmail.com. The deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 6 to have the book you select ordered for you.

CSL OFFERS GENTLE MOVEMENT CLASS
The Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta is offering a gentle stretch and relax chair movement with Michelle Gillette. It takes place every Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is a \$10 donation.
The class is at Chaffee Hall in the Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta. The Center for Spiritual Living is located at 4845 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. For more information, call (818) 249-1045.

LCPC Parent Education's Welcome Team Launches 48th Year



From left are (back row) Lynne Graves, Aileen Ng, Susan Rossi, Kathy Kovalcik, Beth Shupper, Teresa Chiu, Jana Van Dyck, Ellie Richardson and Katy Riddell.
From left are (middle row) Sarah Montes, Sharon Lin, Amanda Andres, Paula Giboney, Ruth Tedmori, Jane Cho, Jennifer Kohorst and Krissy King
From left are (front row) Lesley Monro, Melanie Frey, Jan Roberts, Ashley Barrett, Lauren Gallidoro, Amanda D'Alfonso and Sarah Vincenti.

By Ellie RICHARDSON

LCPC Parent Education will kick off its 48th year with classes beginning Sept. 8 - 10 – and space is still available in some classes.
The program continues its legacy of providing quality parenting classes led by reputable staff.
This year, LCPC Parent Ed is offering 16 daytime classes that run weekly from September through May. Additionally, Parent Express, The Art of Fatherhood (September and April) and The Art of Marriage (October and February) will be offered in four-week sessions. The Art of Fatherhood began on Sept. 9 in the evening and is offered for fathers of children of all ages and stages. This year, LCPC Parent Ed has added two new classes: Parents of Pre-Kindergarteners, taught by Suzette McGonigal, and Parents of Upper Elementary (third-fifth grades), taught by Teresa Chiu.
In preparation for the new program year, a welcome tea for all staff, board and ministry support team (MST) members was held on Sept. 1 at the home of Ashley Barrett. This year's LCPC Parent Ed team includes respected staff members Anne Bierling (executive director), Maria Armstrong, Betty Bredemann, Nanette Brown, Teresa Chiu, Hayley Dziak, Heather Ehrhart, Paula Giboney, Jennifer Gordon, Jenn Kliewer, Daniela Kim, Krissy King, Sharon Lin, Cathy Lukesh, Ellen Mackle, Amy Malyan, Suzette McGonigal, Sarah Montes, Vicki Rekedal, Katy Riddell, Jan Roberts, Beth Shupper, Tracy Tobias, Jana Van Dyck and Sloan Walsh. Art of Fatherhood features Matt Allen, Robert Cha, Ron Chiu, Greg Cook, David Lamb and Paul Song. The team is supported by a dedicated board: Amanda Andres, Ashley Barrett (board chair), Jane Cho, Amanda D'Alfonso, Lauren Gallidoro, Jennifer Kohorst, Leslie Monro, Aileen Ng, Ellie Richardson, Susan Rossi, Ruth Tedmori and Sarah Vincenti; as well as the MST made up of Lynne Graves (chair), Ashley Barrett, Melanie Frey, Katrina Harbers and Kathy Kovalcik.

LEGALS & CLASSIFIEDS

LEGALS

NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME: ANASTASEIA VAN VERTIAN, VIENNA LEE VERTIAN, NEO LYON VERTIAN. Case number 26MNC000521, Superior Court of California, County of Superior Court North Central District, 600 East Broadway, Glendale, California 91206. To all interested persons: 1. Petitioner ANASTASEIA VAN VERTIAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: a. Present Name: ANASTASEIA VAN VERTIAN, AND VIENNA LEE VERTIAN AND NEO LYON VERTIAN to Proposed Name: ANASTASEIA LYON AND VIENNA LEE LYON AND NEO VARTAN LYON. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING a. Date: NOVEMBER 12, 2026, Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: E Room: N/A b. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Published Crescenta Valley Weekly September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 17

Imagine that your heart, your soul, is the center of your being and your heart and soul is filled with love and light – God energy. And God is always working in divine order and divine right action.

I personally go to that thought of divine right action and divine order when I’m getting myself in a space of fear and uncertainty. It reminds me that I don’t have to know the outcome – the why, the how. I just know that God has it covered, got my back, and it recharges my faith. And I must remember to make my light brighter and stronger to overcome the darkness, the fear. It’s my choice and I have the power within me to use it for good.

I recently saw a new movie, “The AI Doc

... Or How I Became an Apocaloptimist.” It’s about AI [artificial intelligence] and the pros and cons of artificial intelligence. For most of it, I felt like I was holding my breath in fear ... the sky is falling, the world is coming to an end. Until the movie shifted to “throughout mankind there has been this fear and life has adapted to changes and continues on.” With that realization, I started breathing again ... thinking regardless of what’s going on, it’s gonna be alright. Whew!

So uncross your fingers, believe in your faith and that all’s good and well.

Blessings aplenty,

Laney Cleverger White,
RScP Emeritus
CSL – La Crescenta

CALKIDS from page 12

CalKIDS Scholarship Account.

CalKIDS Scholarships can be used for qualified educational expenses, including tuition and fees, books and supplies, computer equipment and other eligible costs at accredited colleges, universities, career training programs and vocational schools nationwide.

“It has helped me more than I could know. I’ve been stressed, and money will always lessen the stress. I want education; I deserve education and I’m glad CalKIDS was able to help me achieve that,” said Abigail Ruvalcaba, a CalKIDS recipient and student from California State University, Northridge.

CalKIDS is supporting county offices of education and school districts with

localized scholarship data, ready-to-use communications materials, outreach tools and training resources to help expand claiming efforts during CalKIDS Scholarship Month and beyond.

Launched in 2022 and administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board, CalKIDS has invested more than \$2.4 billion in scholarships for more than 6 million California children and students to help support their pursuit of college, career training and other postsecondary education opportunities.

Families can learn more about CalKIDS, check their student’s eligibility and claim an available scholarship at CalKIDS.org.

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being ghosted by another company to replace my water heat-
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plumbers said wasn't possible was completed perfectly. Can't
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in the future! - *Josh P.*

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